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# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**  
Secretary to the Commission

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## OPINION 198

Suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic names *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, and *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850 (Class Graptolithina), and validation of the generic name *Monograptus* Geinitz, 1852.



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 198

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Professor Ragnar SPÆRCK (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*).

Professor Victor van STRAELEN (*Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium*).

Professor Robert L. USINGER (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).

## OPINION 198

### SUPPRESSION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE GENERIC NAMES "LOMATOCERAS" BRONN, 1834, AND "MONOPRION" BARRANDE, 1850 (CLASS GRAPTOLITHINA) AND VALIDATION OF THE GENERIC NAME "MONOGRAP- TUS" GEINITZ, 1852

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers the generic names *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, and *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850 (Class Graptolithina) are suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy. (2) The name *Monograptus* (an emendation of *Monograpsus*) Geinitz, 1852 (gender of name : masculine) (type species, by selection by Bassler (1915) : *Lomatoceras priodon* Bronn, 1834) is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 628. (3) The specific name *priodon* Bronn, 1834, as published in the combination *Lomatoceras priodon*) is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 3. (4) The generic names *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, and *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850, as suppressed in (1) above, and the Invalid Original Spelling *Monograpsus* Geinitz, 1852 are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 2 to 4.

#### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Under cover of a letter dated 3rd July 1930 Dr. O. M. B. Bulman, Sc.D., F.R.S., then of the *Imperial College of Science and Technology (Royal School of Mines), South Kensington, London, S.W.7*, submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature a memorandum containing several requests for the use of the Plenary Powers in relation to the names of Graptolites. One of the applications so submitted contained a request for the suppression of the generic names *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, and *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850 (Class

Graptolithina) for the purpose of validating the name *Monograptus* (emend. of *Monograpsus*) Geinitz, 1852.

2. This application, as finally settled, was as follows :—

PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF THE RÈGLES FOR  
*MONOGRAPTUS* GEINITZ, 1852 (CLASS GRAPTOLITHINA,  
ORDER GRAPTOLOIDEA)<sup>1</sup>

By O. M. B. BULMAN, Sc.D., F.R.S.

(University Lecturer in Paleozoology, Cambridge University.)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)11)

The name *Lomatoceras* was erected in 1834 (*Lethaea geogn.* 1 (1) : 55), by Bronn with *Lomatoceras priodon* n. sp. (*ibid.* 1 (1) : 56), as the genotype. In 1839, Beck (*in* Murchison, *Silur. Syst.* 2 : 696) stated (but erroneously, as will be explained later) that the name was preoccupied for a genus of insect, and cited *Lomatoceras* Bronn as a synonym of *Graptolithus* Linnaeus, 1768. The name *Lomatoceras* Bronn was employed by Eichwald in 1840 (*Ueber silur. Schichtensyst. Esthland* : 101), but not, apparently, by any other author, and it was withdrawn by Bronn,<sup>2</sup> presumably in deference to Beck's assertion, in 1848 (*Index palaeont.* (1) *Nomencl. palaeont.* : 551, 667) when the species was referred to *Graptolithus* Linnaeus.

Barrande, in 1850 (*Grapt. Bohême* : 15), divided the genus *Graptolithus* Linnaeus into two subgenera, *Diprion* Barrande and *Monoprion* Barrande, the latter with fourteen genosyntypes (: 18) including *Lomatoceras priodon* Bronn ; no type was selected. Geinitz used the name *Monograpsus* [sic] in 1852 (*Verstein. Grauwackenform.* 1 : 19, 32) to cover the subgenus *Monoprion* and another of Barrande's genera, *Rastrites* Barrande, 1850 (*Grapt. Bohême* : 64) ; *Lomatoceras priodon* Bronn was one of twenty-eight genosyntypes. Geinitz asserted that *L. priodon* Barrande was the species upon which the characters of *Monoprion* Barrande were founded, and to this extent that species becomes a genolectotype of *Monoprion* Barrande. Geinitz further stated (*loc. cit.* : 19) that the change in name from *Monoprion* to *Monograpsus* was made with the object of securing uniformity with

<sup>1</sup> The graptolites in the past have commonly been placed in the Class Hydrozoa of the Phylum Coelenterata. The systematic position of the group is, however, obscure and it has here been thought better, while provisionally retaining the graptolites in the Phylum Coelenterata, to treat this group as constituting a separate Class, Graptolithina. (in'td) F. H. 31st January, 1945.

<sup>2</sup> Under the *Règles Internationales*, it is not within the power even of the original author of a generic or specific name to withdraw that name, once it is published.

the name *Diplograpsus* McCoy, 1851, *Brit. palaeoz. Rocks* (1) : 3, 7,<sup>3</sup> but it is clear that he had also enlarged the scope of the genus.

Later usage has changed *Monograpsus* to *Monograptus*.

*Monograptus priodon* (Bronn, 1834) was cited as an "example" of the genus by Lapworth (1873, *Geol. Mag.* 10 : 500—504, 555—560) in his table of the graptolite genera, but, although it would seem that he intended his "examples" to be regarded as typical species (and stated as much for the subgenera of *Diplograptus*<sup>4</sup> on page 557), he did not definitely state a type for *Monograptus*, and this appears to have been done first by Bassler in 1915 (*Bull. U.S. nat. Mus.* 92 : 822) with *Lomatoceras priodon* Bronn.

It may be remarked that Miller (1889, *N. Amer. Geol. Palaeont.* : 196) attributed the authorship of the genus to Emmons, who mentioned it in 1855 (*Amer. Geol.* 1 : 106) without quoting Geinitz's name; Emmons' species are considered by Ruedemann (1908, *Grapt. New York* 2 : 450) to be indeterminate fragments of species of *Didymograptus* McCoy, [1851],<sup>5</sup> in Sedgwick & McCoy, *Syn. palaeoz. Rocks* 2 (fasc. 1) : 9, and the matter need not be pursued.

In 1896, Gurley (*J. Geol.* 4 : 79) stated that he could find no trace of the preoccupation of the name *Lomatoceras* and urged that this name should stand by virtue of priority. *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, is the only genus of this name recorded by Sherborn (1927, *Index Anim. Pars. secund.* (14) : 3637) and it would seem true that Beck's original statement was incorrect.<sup>6</sup>

*Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, with *Lomatoceras priodon* Bronn, 1834, has clear priority over the name *Monograptus* Geinitz, 1852, with the same type; but the latter name has become well established in an extensive literature over a period of nearly 80 years. It is extensively employed in stratigraphical geology, being perhaps the most important and widely distributed single graptolite genus. Of the 23 standard zones and subzones of the British Silurian (cited by Elles and Wood) 16 are named after species of the genus *Monograptus* and zones have

<sup>3</sup> The name *Diplograpsus* McCoy, 1851, is an emendation of the name *Diplograpsis* McCoy, 1850, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (2) 6 : 271.

<sup>4</sup> The name *Diplograptus* Hall, 1865, *Geol. Surv. Canad. Fig. Descr. Canad. org. Remains* 2 : 110, is an emendation of *Diplograpsis* McCoy, 1850. See preceding footnote.

<sup>5</sup> The name *Didymograptus* McCoy, [1851], is an emendation of the name published by McCoy as *Didymograpsus*. This emendation was made by Hall, 1865, *Geol. Surv. Canad. Fig. Descr. Canad. org. Remains* 2 : 41.

<sup>6</sup> It may be noted also that in the latest Nomenclator (Neave, 1939, *Nomencl. zool.* 2 : 987) the only genus with the name "*Lomatoceras*" cited is *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834. There is, however, a genus of insects with the name *Lomatocera*, of which Bronn was the author, but this was not published until 1848, *Index pal.* : 667, i.e. fourteen years after the publication of the name *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834. It is possible that Beck's statement in 1839 that *Lomatoceras* was preoccupied by an older name in insects may have been due to his having been aware of the manuscript name *Lomatocera* Bronn and erroneously supposed that it had priority over the name *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834.

been established on species of this genus not only throughout Europe, but also in America, Asia and Australia. Moreover, the name appears in nearly every elementary textbook of palaeontology and stratigraphy. No useful purpose would be served by an insistence upon the re-establishment of an almost forgotten name (*Lomatoceras*) originally bestowed under the impression that the graptolites belonged to the Cephalopoda; and the name *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850, which, apart from the work of Barrande, has also found no place in the classic literature on graptolites, is equally undesirable.

In the opinion of the applicant, the strict application of the rules to the present case would result in greater confusion than uniformity and he therefore submits that under their plenary powers the International Commission should suppress the names *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, and *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850, and should validate *Monograptus* Geinitz, 1852, (= an emendation of *Monograpsus* Geinitz, 1852) with *Lomatoceras priodon* Bronn, 1834, as type, and that the name *Monograptus* Geinitz, 1852, so validated and with the above species as type, should be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. The memorandum furnished by Dr. Bulman in 1930 was communicated in December 1931 to the members of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the then Secretary (the late Dr. C. W. Stiles) in Circular Letter No. 221. This action led to the submission of the five comments on this case set out in the immediately following paragraphs.

4. *Comment by Lt. Col. J. Stephenson*: The following comment was furnished in a letter dated 5th March 1932 by Lt. Col. J. Stephenson, a Member of the International Commission:—

The authority to whom I should naturally have submitted the cases detailed in your Circular Letter 221 (Subject: Suspension, *Monograptus*, *Retiolites*, *Graptolithus*) is Dr. Bulman himself, who works within a stone's throw of this Museum [*British Museum (Natural History)*]. As he raises the cases, we may take it that we know his answer beforehand.

Captain A. K. Totton, the Assistant Keeper here in the Museum in charge of Coelenterata, informs me that he would himself have no hesitation in taking Dr. Bulman's opinion; and, having been through

the names myself as they are presented in your letter, I beg to give my own informal recommendation in the same sense also.

5. *Comment by Dr. F. A. Bather* : In a letter to Dr. Stiles, dated 21st March 1932, the late Dr. F. A. Bather (*Keeper, Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History)*) wrote : " I entirely agree with Bulman's proposals ".

6. *Comment by Dr. Gertrude L. Elles* : In a letter dated 25th February 1932 (communicated by Dr. Bather), Dr. Gertrude L. Elles (*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University*) wrote :—

I am entirely in sympathy with Bulman's proposals. . . I consider very definitely that it would be a very great pity to attempt to re-establish *Lomatoceras* for *Monograptus*, since the latter is so well established in literature and perfectly well understood.

7. *Comment by Dr. Karl Jordan* : In a letter dated 22nd May 1932, Dr. Karl Jordan (*Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.*) wrote : "*Lomatoceras* has priority. Its re-introduction may be inconvenient for present-day workers, but hardly leads to confusion. If a large majority of specialists insists on retaining the junior name *Monograptus*, I am willing to agree to a suspension of the Rules ".

8. *Comment by Mr. Frederick Chapman* : In a letter dated 9th September 1932, Mr. Frederick Chapman (*National Museum, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia*) wrote as follows :—

My colleagues R. A. Keble, W. J. Harris and D. E. Thomas, graptolite specialists in Victoria, with whom I entirely agree, are of the opinion that it would be unfortunate to revive *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, instead of retaining *Monograptus* Lapworth, 1873 (non *Monograptus* Geinitz, 1852). Such reversion would cause great confusion amongst present-day workers and therefore we would vote for the suspension of the Rules in this case.

9. The present case was placed on the Agenda for the Session of the International Commission then about to be held at Lisbon in Circular Letter 309 issued to members of the Commission in March 1935. Owing to the absence through ill-health of the Secretary (Dr. Stiles) and the fact that in consequence the papers relating to this case were not available in Lisbon, it was not possible for the International Commission to deal with this case on that occasion.

10. In 1938 the documents relating to this and other current cases were transferred to the care of Mr. Francis Hemming, who in October 1936 had been elected Secretary to the Commission on the retirement of Dr. Stiles. On receipt the documents relating to this case were given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)11. It had not been found possible to make any further progress with this case when in September 1939 the records of the Commission were evacuated from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942 and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly-established *Bulletin*. After an exchange of correspondence between the Secretary and Dr. Bulman, the terms of the present application were finally settled on 24th August 1944. This application was sent to the printer in September 1944, but, owing to paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 26th June 1946 (Bulman, 1946, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 164—166). The publication of this application in the *Bulletin* elicited the comments set out in the three immediately following paragraphs.

11. *Comment by Dr. Th. Mortensen* : In a letter dated 20th April 1947, the late Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen*) indicated his support for this application by writing the word "Yes".

12. *Comment by Dr. Charles E. Decker* : On 13th June 1947 Dr. J. Brookes Knight (*Research Associate in Paleontology, United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) at that time Chairman of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America, wrote : "As Chairman, I called these propositions to the attention of Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann and Dr. Charles E. Decker, the two recognized American authorities on the Graptolites. I enclose the originals of their replies". The comment by Dr. Decker (*University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, U.S.A.*) on the present case was given in a letter dated 2nd August 1946, the relevant portion



of which reads as follows : " As regards the case of *Lomatoceras* Bronn, and *Monoprion* Barrande, the later name *Monograptus* Geinitz has acquired a definite meaning and is now generally accepted. I think, therefore, that the older generic terms might well be suppressed."

13. *Comment by Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann* : In a letter dated 29th November 1946, Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann (*Albany, N.Y., U.S.A.*) wrote : " In answer to your question I may say that I fully agree with the proposed suspension of the *Règles* for *Monograptus*. . . ."

14. On 14th September 1947 a notice of the possible use, by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objections to the action proposed.

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

15. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1730 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission setting out the decision reached by it in regard to this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 22) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 378) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their plenary powers :—

(a) to suppress the generic names *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834 and *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850 for the

- purposes of Article 25 but not for those of Article 34 ;
- (b) to validate the generic name *Monograptus* (emend. of *Monograpsus*) Geinitz, 1852, with *Lomatoceras priodon* Bronn, 1834, as its type species ;
- (2) to place the generic name *Monograptus* Geinitz, 1852 (Class Graptolithina, Order Graptoloidea), emended and validated as above and with the above species as its type species, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* and the trivial name *priodon* Bronn, 1834 (as published in the binominal combination *Lomatoceras priodon*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) to place the generic names *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834 and *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

16. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

- Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, *Lethaea geogn.* 1(1) : 55  
*Monograpsus* Geinitz, 1852, *Verstein. Grauwackenform.* 1 : 19, 32  
*Monograptus* (emend. of *Monograpsus*) Geinitz, 1852, *Verstein. Grauwackenform.* 1 : 19, 32  
*Monoprion* Barrande, 1850, *Grapt. Bohême* : 15  
*priodon*, *Lomatoceras*, Bronn, 1834, *Lethaea geogn.* 1(1) : 56

The following is the reference for the type-selection for the genus *Monograptus* (emend. of *Monograpsus*) Geinitz, 1852 :—Bassler, 1915, *Bull. U.S. nat. Mus.* 92 : 822.

17. The gender of the generic name *Monograptus* Geinitz, 1852, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 15 is masculine.

18. Under the provisions relating to the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*, the International Commission is required to place thereon every generic name which it either rejects under the Plenary Powers or declares to be invalid. In the present instance this requirement was duly complied with in the Official Record of its decision, so far as the names *Lomatoceras* Bronn, 1834, and *Monoprion* Barrande, 1850, were concerned, but through some inadvertence not in the case of the Invalid Original Spelling *Monograpsus* Geinitz, 1852, then rejected by it in favour of the Emendation *Monograptus*. This omission has been rectified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

19. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 106).

20. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

21. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

22. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and

invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

23. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

24. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion One Hundred and Ninety-Eight* (198) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Fourteenth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING